

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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SUBJECT: SOVIET FEES FOR FOREIGN FISHING

REF: STATE 149928

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: ON JUNE 19 SCICOUNS
DISCUSSED QUESTIONS IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL WITH
DEPTUY MINISTER OF FISHERIES KAMENTSEV, WHO
NOTED THAT THE USSR DOES NOT PRESENTLY CHARGE
ANY FEES FOR FOREIGN FISHING WITHIN ITS
200 MILE ZONE BECAUSE NONE OF THE FOREIGN
NATIONS WHICH CURRENTLY FISH WITHIN THE SOVIET
200 MILE ZONE (KAMENTSEV SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED
JAPAN AND NORWAY) CHARGE ANY FEES FOR SOVIET
FISHING WITHIN THEIR OWN FISHERIES ZONES.
KAMENTSEV SAID THE UK DOES NOT NOW FISH IN
SOVIET WATERS, ADDING THAT THE MATTER IS
TIED TO THE UNRESOLVED ISSUE OF SOVIET FISHING
IN THE EEC ZONE. ACCORDING TO KAMENTSEV,
SOVIET LAW IN THIS AREA IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE
OF RECIPROCITY. IT REPORTEDLY MANDATES
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THAT THE CONDITIONS APPLIED TO FOREIGN FISHERIES
ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED WITHIN THE SOVIET 200 MILE
ZONE SHOULD NOT BE MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN THE
CONDITIONS AFFECTING THE ACTIVITIES OF SOVIET
FISHERMEN IN THE FISHERIES ZONES OF THE CORRES-
PONDING FOREIGN COUNTRY. ON THIS BASIS,
KAMENTSEV INDICATED THAT ANY US FISHERMEN

WITHIN THE SOVIET 200 MILE ZONE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO FEES EXACTLY EQUIVALENT TO THE FEES WHICH US AUTHORITIES ASSESSED ON SOVIET FISHERIES ACTIVITIES FOR THE SAME SPECIES.

2. IN RESPONSE TO SCICOUNS QUESTION, KAMENTSEV CONCEDED THAT THE USSR ASSESSES FEES ON THE ACTIVITIES OF JAPANESE SALMON FISHERMEN; HOWEVER, THESE FEES ARE FOR FISHERIES ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED OUTSIDE THE SOVIET 200 MILE ZONE. (KAMENTSEV DID NOT STATE BASIS ON WHICH SOVIETS FORMULATED FEES.) KAMENTSEV ADDED THAT NO JAPANESE SALMON FISHING IS ALLOWED WITHIN THE SOVIET 200 MILE ZONE AND THUS THE QUESTION OF FEES IN THE ZONE DOES NOT ARISE. KAMENTSEV NOTED THAT SINCE THE JAPANESE CATCH IN THE SOVIET 200 MILE ZONE IS APPROXIMATELY 800,000 TONS, WHILE THE SOVIET CATCH IN THE JAPANESE ZONE IS ABOUT 600,000 TONS, IT WOULD NOT BE TO THE ADVANTAGE OF JAPAN TO IMPOSE FISHING FEES ON THE SOVIETS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: IN RESPONSE TO SCICOUNS QUERY, KAMENTSEV INDICATED THAT SOVIETS MAY SOON BE FORCED TO CONSIDER FORMULATING A GENERAL SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR FOREIGN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FISHING WITHIN THE SOVIET 200 MILE ZONE BECAUSE MANY OF THE COUNTRIES WHERE SOVIETS CONDUCT FISHERIES ACTIVITIES EITHER ALREADY CHARGE FEES, AS DOES THE US, OR ARE CONSIDERING THE IMPOSITION OF FEES. IN THIS CONNECTION KAMENTSEV INDICATED THAT SOVIETS "HAD EVIDENCE" THAT NORWAY IS CONSIDERING IMPOSITION OF FEES FOR FOREIGN FISHING DURING THE 1979 SEASON AND HE ALSO NOTED THAT MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE CONSIDERING IMPOSING FEES ON FOREIGN FISHING. HOWEVER, KAMENTSEV LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT ANY SUCH SOVIET SCHEDULE FO FEES WOULD STILL BE BASED, TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE, ON THE PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY.

4. COMMENT: AS A NATION WHICH ENGAGES IN WIDE SPREAD FISHING IN FOREIGN FISHERIES ZONES, THE SOVIET UNION HAS AN OBVIOUS INTEREST IN KEEPING FISHERIES FEES TO A MINIMUM. IT APPEARS THAT THE SOVIET EMPHASIS ON RECIPROCITY IS DESIGNED WITH THIS AIM IN MIND. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. MATLOCK

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